

## **NASA Advisory Council Finding**

### **International Space Station (ISS) Phaseout**

<b>Name of Committee:</b>	Human Exploration and Operations Committee
<b>Chair of Committee:</b>	Mr. Kenneth Bowersox
<b>Date of Council Public Deliberation:</b>	July 27, 2017
<b>Short Title of Finding:</b>	International Space Station (ISS) Phaseout

**Finding:** The Council finds that the International Space Station (ISS) is a critical facility for development of systems that will be used for deep space exploration, especially for life support systems. Current projections show approximately two years of run-time on deep space exploration life support systems onboard ISS – in preparation for what may be a three-year crewed mission to Mars in the 2030s. While the official commitment to ISS currently ends in 2024, the Council believes that it is likely that exploration development in low Earth orbit will need to be continued past 2024.

Ideally, the end of government support for the ISS would be determined by clear criteria for its required use, availability of commercial alternatives, and would be a gradual reduction in support rather than a sharp cutoff at a fixed date. Early understanding of ISS availability after 2024 will improve the station's science utilization and improve the likelihood that commercial providers will be able to sustain low Earth orbit operational capability after the government reduces support.